

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 00703 170908Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4793

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 0703

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, EGEN, RH, JA

SUBJECT: GOJ PRELIMINARY REACTION TO ZIMBABWE FUND PROPOSAL

REF: A. 75 TOKYO 18800; B. STATE 304674

C. 75 TOKYO 18810; D. 75 TOKYO 18905

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SUMMARY: FONOFF HAS ASKED FOR MORE DETAIL ON ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT
FUND PROPOSAL, WHICH REMAINS "UNDER STUDY." FONOFF OFFICIAL TOLD
DCM THAT GOJ PARTICULARLY ATTENTIVE TO BLACK AFRICAN REACTION, TO
WORLD BANK ROLE, TO POSSIBLE UN INVOLVEMENT IN RHODESIA TRANSI-
TION, AND TO METHOD OF DETERMINING SCALE OF FUND AND APPORTION-
MENT OF SHARES. UNMENTIONED, BUT DOUBTLESS FACTORS IN NONCOMMIT-

TAL FONOFF STANCE, ARE ITS UNCERTAINTY ABOUT GENEVA DISCUSSIONS AND ABOUT ATTITUDE OF NEW US ADMINISTRATION. END SUMMARY.

1. MIDEAST-AFRICA DIRGEN HIDEO KAGAMI JANUARY 17 GAVE DCM FONOFF'S "PRELIMINARY REACTION" TO ZIMBABWE DEVELOPMENT FUND PROPOSAL. KAGAMI SAID THAT FONOFF WAS APPRECIATIVE THAT US AND UK HAD INCLUDED JAPAN AMONG THOSE TO WHOM PROPOSAL MADE. FONOFF TOOK NOTE OF INTENTION THAT CONTENT AND FORM OF FUND WOULD BE FURTHER DEVELOPED THROUGH CONSULTATIONS AMONG THOSE NATIONS WHICH DECIDED TO PARTICIPATE, BUT OBSERVED THAT ATTITUDE OF BLACK AFRICAN STATES TOWARD PROPOSED FUND WAS NOT YET KNOWN. FINALLY, KAGAMI SAID, WORLD BANK'S ROLD, RELATION BETWEEN PROPOSED FUND AND POSSIBLE UN INVOLVEMENT, SCALE OF FUND AND FORMULAE USED TO DETERMINE APPROPRIATE SHARES ALL PRESENTED PROBLEMS. FONOFF THOUGHT IT WOULD BE PARTICULARLY HELPFUL TO KNOW HOW WE HAVE DECIDED LAST TWO POINTS.

2. FONOFF WOULD, KAGAMI SUMMARIZED, KEEP PROPOSAL UNDER STUDY, WOULD WATCH BLACK AFRICAN STATES' REACTIONS, AND WOULD WELCOME FURTHER DETAILS AS FEASIBLE. HE EXPLAINED THAT GOJ WAS ACCUSTOMED TO WORKING FROM "BOTTOM UP" IN DECIDING ECONOMIC AID QUESTIONS, I.E., SENIOR OFFICIALS WERE LOATH TO RENDER "POLITICAL JUDGMENTS" UNTIL WORKING LEVEL COMPLETED DETAILED EXAMINATION OF SPECIFIC PROJECTS. KAGAMI RECOGNIZED THAT ZIMBABWE FUND PROPOSAL WAS PRIMARILY OF POLITICAL NATURE; NONETHELESS, ANY FURTHER SPECIFICS WE OR UK COULD OFFER WOULD HELP GOJ DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.

3. DCM OBSERVED THAT UNTIL OUTLINES OF POLITICAL SETTLEMENT
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CLEARER, SPECIFICS MIGHT WELL BE ELUSIVE. HE HOPED, HOWEVER, THAT DEPARTMENT COULD PROVIDE SOME ANSWERS TO FONOFF'S QUESTIONS. HE ASKED IF CONFUSION OVER PURPOSE OF FUND (REF. C) HAD BEEN DISPELLED. KAGAMI ANSWERED THAT FONMIN AND OTHERS FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT FUND NOT INTENDED TO "BAIL OUT WHITES".

4. DCM WAS TOLD THAT CANADIANS HAVE MADE APPROACH IN SUPPORT OF FUND, AND THAT TWO AFRICAN AMBASSADORS HAD INQUIRED "VERY INFORMALLY" SUBSEQUENT TO APPEARANCE OF NEWSPAPER ARTICLES. ONE OF AFRICANS WAS MOST INTERESTED IN LEARNING WHY ZIMBABWE DUE TO HIT JACKPOT WHEREAS HIS COUNTRY RECEIVED "PITTANCE" UPON GAINING INDEPENDENCE. KAGAMI NOTED THAT THIS "SENSE OF BALANCE" CONCERNED MOFA.

5. EMBASSY HAS BEEN IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH BRITISH HERE, WHO SHARE OUR IMPRESSION THAT JAPANESE HAVE NOT YET INSTRUCTED THEIR EMBASSIES TO CONSULT WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS ON ZIMBABWE FUND, AND THAT ONLY CANADIANS AND NEW ZEALANDERS HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SOUND JAPANESE. IN SUM, INTEREST IN PROPOSAL REMAINS VERY

RESTRAINED PENDING DEVELOPMENTS IN GENEVA OR EXPRESSION OF
SUPPORT BY NEW US ADMINISTRATION.

6. IT WOULD EVIDENTLY BE USEFUL HERE IF SOME OF MAJOR AFRICAN
GOVERNMENTS WERE PERSUADED TO ENDORSE FUND PROPOSAL. BARRING
THAT, ANY FURTHER DETAILS DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE TO MEET
CONCERNS PARAS ONE AND TWO ABOVE WILL HELP US KEEP DIALOGUE
ALIVE.

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Message Attributes

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